

# NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—HARRIS HUNTER, in "THE FINEST FIDELITY AND THE DEMON HORSE."

SHERRY GARDEN, Broadway—ELI KING, OR "WEALTH AND POVERTY"—SINGULARITY.

BOVET THEATRE, BOVET—FARLEY FORTY THREE, in "THE FINEST FIDELITY AND THE DEMON HORSE."

HENRY'S THEATRE, Chambers Street—THE "WITNESS."

LAURA KENNEDY VARIETIES, Broadway—BALANCE OF COUNTRY—MOTIVELY—LOTTIE TUCKER.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway—SIX STORIES TO COME—FOUR—HONOR.

BROADWAY VARIETIES, 47 Broadway—MALL QUEEN BY THE WOOD & MARSH CHILDREN.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, 44 Broadway—SYMPHONY PERFORMANCES—HAPPY MAN, OR "TREATY WITH JAPAN."

ROCKLEY'S BURLESQUE OF OPERA HOUSE, 108 Broadway—MAGNIFICENT—LUCIANA BORGIA.

ACADEMY HALL, 55 Broadway—PANTOMIME PICTURES IN CHINA AND JAPAN.

New York, Friday, February 22, 1856.

The News.

The steamer Atlantic had not been telegraphed up to a late hour last night.

Attention centres upon Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. At these points the politicians are actively engaged in mapping out the Presidential campaign, and our copious reports of their doings, which we publish on the first page of to-day's paper, will, no doubt, be read with the avidity the importance of the subject justifies.

The American National Council at Philadelphia yesterday made an important move. The platform of last year was thrown overboard, and another, called the District of Columbia platform, erected in its place by a large majority. This new declaration of principles embraces a good deal of bombast and gammon; its recommendations are that it totally ignores the slavery question and the religious test, and evinces a proper appreciation of the water gruel administration of Franklin Pierce. The Council adjourned to meet in New York June. The American Convention called to nominate candidates for President and Vice President meets to-day. There is much discussion as to who will be the nominees; but it is idle to speculate upon that matter. General Houston has declared that he will not play second fiddle to any one, so he may be regarded as out of the field altogether. The following is the official call for the Convention:

TO THE AMERICAN ORDER IN THE UNITED STATES.

NATIONAL CONVENTION, EXECUTIVE OFFICE, CHAMBERS ST., N. Y., NOV. 22, 1855.

Resolved, that a Convention for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, to be held in Philadelphia on the 22nd of February, 1856, to be composed of delegates elected by the subordinate Councils, one in each Congressional district, and two by each State Council, as follows:

In consequence of the extension of this resolution, and to give full effect, I hereby proclaim and make known that, without delay, the Councils of the Order in each Congressional district in each State, and that each State Council, shall proceed to elect delegates to represent them in said National Convention, appointed by said resolution; and, to secure a full representation, it is recommended that for each Congressional and State district two alternates be at the same time chosen by said district and State Councils.

President National Council U. S. N. Y.

The Nigger Whippers Convention at Pittsburgh will no doubt be attended by all the greater and lesser lights of that organization. Yesterday a large number was already on the ground. The following is the call under which they have assembled:

TO THE REPUBLICANS OF THE UNITED STATES.

In accordance with what appears to be the general desire of the Republican party, and at the suggestion of a large portion of the Republican press, the undersigned, Chairman of the State Republican Committee of Ohio, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin, hereby invite the Republicans of the Union to meet in informal convention at Pittsburgh, on the 22nd of February, 1856, for the purpose of perfecting the national organization, and providing for a National Independent Convention of the Republican party, at some subsequent day, to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency, to be supported at the election in November, 1856.

A. P. STONE, of Ohio.

J. C. GOODRICH, of Mass.

DAVID WILSON, of Pa.

J. W. BRANTON, of Vt.

WILLIAM A. WHITE, of N. Y.

RUFUS B. SUMNER, of Pa.

Of the Michigan State Republican Committee.

Nothing worthy of mention occurred in the United States Senate yesterday. The House, after a farcical and somewhat protracted debate, elected Daniel Wadsworth to the chairmanship. Mr. Wadsworth is of this city, and is now in the ninety-fourth year of his age. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and has served under the banner of the Cross as a clergyman of the Congregational Church for more than seventy years. The Senate's appointment of Hon. George E. Badger and Professor Felton, as Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, were concurred in. Several bills were introduced—among them one for the construction of a railroad and telegraph line to the Pacific. It was referred to a select committee of thirteen. Both houses adjourned till Monday. A large number of Congressmen immediately proceeded to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to attend the national conventions.

Edwin D. Morgan and Cyrus Curtis have been appointed Commissioners of Emigration, in place of Charles A. Marshall and James Kelly, resigned.

The Board of Aldermen met last evening. The annual report of the Comptroller, giving the receipts and expenditures for 1855, was received. We give the document elsewhere.

Fire Marshal Baker, it seems, has been with his customary indefatigability, following up an incendiary charged with firing the building No. 82 Nassau street last Sunday night. The accused escaped from the city on the morning after the fire, and took refuge in Philadelphia; but the persevering efforts of the Marshal have caused his capture. He is now safely lodged in the Tombs. An account of the affair is published elsewhere.

The Rhode Island Democratic State Convention met yesterday at Providence, and nominated Amos W. Potter for Governor.

The new steam frigate Merrimack, which leaves Boston on Saturday on her trial trip, has been ordered by the Secretary of the Navy to cruise in search of vessels on the coast in distress.

It was stated on "Change yesterday that the private letters received by the Canada, which came to hand yesterday morning, contained orders for the purchase of considerable cotton. The market became quite excited and very active, and with one or two exceptions, the sales were larger than hitherto made in this market in a single day for the space of some eight or ten years, having reached about 14,000 bales, chiefly in transit. The transactions for lots on the spot were based upon middling uplands, at about 19½ cents, and Mobile and New Orleans do, at 104 cents, closing firmer; common and extra superfine State ranged from \$6 75 to 7 12½, within which range, 1,500 bales were purchased for export. In the absence of sales wheat was nominal. Sound yellow and white Southern corn sold at 75 to 76 cents. Pork was a little irregular, with sales of mess at 41½ to 42½. Sugar was about 10 cts. higher than before the receipt of the Cuban news from Havana, with more doing. Coffee continued buoyant and in good demand. Freighters were firm, with fair engagements to English ports. To the Continent ship-

## Our Relations with England—The Game is Being Happily Illustrated.

War between two such Powers as the United States and England is a serious thing. We know this, and England knows it, by experience; but the brags and bluffs of Lord Palmerston's Cabinet and press are by no means so important. We can afford to receive them for what they are worth, and to give them their just weight in the consideration of the differences existing between us and our transatlantic relations.

The tone of the British press—liberal extracts from which we laid before our readers yesterday—are in the last degree both puerile and insulting. We cannot question the courage of our progenitors without reflecting upon ourselves; but there is much in the article of the London Post (the official organ of Lord Palmerston) to show that little confidence is felt either in the right of English enlistments in the United States or of the justice of the British pretensions in Central America, or in the ability of the government, in the event of war, to maintain its assumptions. Men do not talk so grandiloquently of their prowess when they really possess the genuine article. Besides, it is in the last degree nauseating to hear the chief of a great State talk of his ability to crush, by a single blow, his adversary. If true, the assumption is arrogant folly; if not true, it is disgusting gasconade. If the United States is no competitor for England, and it is in the power of the latter, in case of war, to "sweep American commerce from the seas and lay the whole seaboard of the Union open to the attacks of the greatest naval Power in the world," what sense is there in proclaiming such wonderful achievements before the peace of the two countries is seriously menaced? Does it make England more powerful? Does it paralyze our strength? Does it convert history into fiction?

It is all very well to be able to estimate our strength and resources; but when these are made in the face of impending or possible collision, the opposite party ought to be excused if he does not fully credit his antagonist with entire impartiality and truthfulness. We leave to the British Cabinet the question of the propriety of using offensive menace at such a time, and whether it is proper for a State like that of England to foreclose a controversy by fighting naval and land battles in advance of actual hostilities.

It would be folly to deny that England is a great naval Power, or to suppose that she will not, in the event of a war with us, use her vast naval resources to intercept and capture our commerce upon the high seas; but it would be as fallacious to pretend that she is at all equal upon land. The time has gone by when the evils of war can be confined to disasters upon the ocean, especially such a war as is contemplated by the London Cabinet and press. The resources of England constitute the foundation of her ability to carry on war at all; and these resources, happily, are almost wholly dependent upon her supplies from this country. That which shall "sweep our commerce from the seas," then, will sweep away the occupation of millions of her operatives, and produce civil commotion, if not famine, in the kingdom. But we are not altogether, we apprehend, at the mercy of our kinsmen, even upon the seas. We, too, have a great commercial marine—a vast population, some noteworthy energy, and, duly considered, some right to contest the empire of the ocean, even against the "enormous fleet of her Majesty." We have never been swept entirely off this element, and if it were not imitating the puerile bragado of the Palmerston manifesto, we should unhesitatingly assert that two years of war would find two American to one British vessel upon the Atlantic ocean, and twenty Americans well equipped and fed on the land to one Englishman.

But we detect this kind of statement and assertion. It is better to leave such matters to those who may be called upon to settle them in a different and more authentic way. We cannot, however, avoid referring, in connection with the pretensions of our adversaries, on the present occasion, to the two "enormous fleets" which have for two consecutive years sailed into and out of the Baltic, doing a little business in the way of "coast surveys," affording provender for the Palmerston Cabinet and press, and a theme of abuse to Sir Charles Napier and other fire eating Admirals of her Majesty—nothing more. Nor will it be considered out of place if we point in the spirit of "friendly menace" to the achievements of the "well trained armies of England" at Sebastopol and at Kars, making no reference to the battle of New Orleans, to our campaigns in Mexico, and a half dozen naval engagements between American and British vessels during the war of 1812. The efforts and failures of her Majesty's officers to enlist soldiers for the Russian war in England, and the notable devices of doing a little of that relief service in the United States, and the nervous anxiety manifested by the Palmerston Cabinet to exchange its money and its carrying conveniences for French and other Continental soldiers, are not entirely forgotten in this country. Meanwhile, it may be well to mention in this connection—without the slightest belief that we shall require their services—that we have two millions of able bodied men, regularly enrolled according to law, educated—not trained and drilled—to the use of arms; and, what is more, thoroughly indoctrinated with the idea that it is their duty, in certain contingencies, to defend the State. It is no exaggeration to say, this is a Power capable of defending the country against England; and there is little hazard in asserting that it will be exercised in such a manner, in case of war, as to do away entirely with the impressions which the London Post and Times have imbibed concerning the "utterly helpless military and naval resources" of the American government.

There is one field—and one alone—upon which the United States are ready to acknowledge the superiority of their transatlantic relatives. Out of a dozen or fifteen treaties made with England—commencing with Jay's convention, in 1794, and particularly including that of Ghent, in 1815, that concerning joint occupation in the Northwest, in 1818 and 1828, the Ashburton and Webster convention, and ending with that capsaeph of folly in 1850, the Clayton-Bulwer treaty—we have been overreached and out-witted. These things rather prove that our government is not as strong as our people. It is the latter upon whom we rely in war.

But laying these matters aside, let us contemplate the spectacle presented to the world by the tone of the British government in

## wards the people of the United States. We are not utterly helpless—we are not powerless; and it is this fact, well known to the nations of Europe, which places the London Cabinet in a most contemptible position. It drops away from the discussion of the merits of the controversy, in which it has been wholly unsuccessful, to a dashing assertion of its power to enforce its position upon its adversary. It leaves the field of argument to exalt and magnify its own resources, chuckling over its prospect of peace with Russia, and of being able, by a single blow, to crush the United States. All this is characteristic of the British aristocracy; but it is no evidence either of the justice of British pretensions in Central America or of its power, ultimately, to enforce those pretensions against the opposition of the United States. It is no evidence of an advance of England, either in the elements of civilization or of positive courage, to meet the issue involved in the dispute between the two countries. It may be well, just at this time, when the Powers of the Continent are about to be re-organized and new combinations effected, to talk big towards this republic and to magnify the resources of the kingdom; but such things are so well understood on this side of the water as to leave no other impression upon the public mind than that of indifference and contempt.

We can ill-afford to engage in a war with England about Central America; but once undertaken, there can be no doubt of the result. The United States possess more resources for war than any other sixty millions of people on the globe; more than double those of England. These resources may not be at first entirely accessible; but they will be developed, even upon the high seas with a marvellous celerity, and upon the land in full season to meet every possible contingency. We shall not require, in such a contest, an auxiliary force in the heart of the British nation; but we shall have it in all the great trade, manufacturing, moneyed and navigation interests of the kingdom—in all central, prosperous, industrial England. Such a war will light up the fires of democracy on every hill and in every valley of that country; it will be the signal of a collision between freedom and absolutism everywhere. The seeds of free government have been sown in all parts of the world; they have taken root in England, and they will grow and ripen and be harvested by such a war. It is possible that the United States may be driven into a controversy which, in its consequences, will serve to stir up the slumbering energies of democracy and hasten the utter downfall of aristocracy.

But what is the duty of Congress in view of these facts? Is it not to throw aside the selfish bickerings of politicians and act for the country? Is it not in the face of the threats of England to prepare for the emergency? Let Congress take up the subject of our navy, increase our steam vessels of war, look after our coast defences, and place the United States in an attitude that will show to the world that we are prepared to maintain our rights at all hazards.

## High Doings at Philadelphia and Pittsburgh—The Know Nothing and Nigger Whipping Conventions of To-day.

It will be seen from our telegraphic despatches that the special National Council of the American Order convened in Philadelphia on Monday last, for the purpose of reconstructing the party, its rituals, constitutions, ceremonials, platforms, &c., upon some rational and national basis, had "a high time" yesterday upon the everlasting stumbling block of the "nigger question."

The "twelfth section," the requirements of the constitution, "no more, no less," and the "restoration of the Missouri compromise," and other things, were the expedients discussed. The South seems to have agreed to drop the "twelfth section," but wanted something tangible in exchange for it; and were decidedly suspicious of an impracticable double-faced humbug in the proposed compromise of following slavery as far as the constitution, "no more, no less." Senator Sumner, for example, declares positively that the Fugitive Slave law is unconstitutional—that the extension of slavery is unconstitutional, &c.—while, on the other hand, the Know Nothings of the South hold that the Fugitive law is the essence of the constitution, and that slavery may be constitutionally extended into new States and new Territories, and that it is right that it should be.

With the meeting of such extremes, represented by the anti-democratic chivalry of the South on the one hand, and by such rampant abolitionists as Lieut. Governor Ford, of Ohio, on the other, whose hostility to slavery is as intense and "undying" as that of Gen. Wilson, Seward or Giddings, what else could be expected than the perils of another separation of the great American party by Mason and Dixon's line and the Ohio river, as in June last. It is but the old farce of the New York hard-softs, under a new name, with more numerous and miscellaneous materials, and upon a larger scale of operations.

On this day—the anniversary of the illustrious and immortal Washington—the regular National Council or Convention of the American party is appointed to meet in Philadelphia, for the express and exclusive object of nominating a national ticket for the Presidency—that is, provided always that the constitution of the Order, its rituals, ceremonials, oaths, grips, signs and passwords, dark lanterns, prophecies, exceptions, and principles of all kinds, shall have been so modified, codified and accommodated to the universal and special necessities of the heretofore disorganized brotherhood as to render them in fact, intact—a harmonious, living, active, hopeful and practical national party. But if these prerequisites are not fulfilled, then the nomination may be postponed, or there may be two or three tickets nominated, or the whole concern may be dissolved, leaving nothing in the world but "Live Oak George Law" and his "live oak" principles, and the "live oak" clubs at his back, to tell the lamentable story of the general wreck. Whatever else may be done, with any other nomination, or without any other nomination, of one thing we are privately informed: that, "sink or swim," "Live Oak George" will be brought out to stand his land around the whole course on the great "Derby day" of next November. How he will come out is a horse of a totally different complexion. We feel, however, comparatively easy concerning the nominating convention, under the presumption that, whether they make or break, "Live Oak George Law" will survive.

Secondly, the Southern Whippersnappers meet in

## general convention to-day, at Pittsburgh; to give shape and discipline and unity and cohesion to their piebald legions and mercenaries of all kinds, and to prepare some general plan of operations in view of a future convention for the nomination of their Presidential ticket. Holding their convention at a point between two rivers, frozen over in some places to the bottom, we hope they will be able to keep cool. We suspect that this Pittsburgh gathering was partly intended as a scarecrow to the Northern birds of doubtful plumage assembled at Philadelphia, and we fear it has had some effect upon them. But as it is the result which crowns all, we await the upshot of the row at Philadelphia, and the conclusion of the oracles of the Nigger Whippersnappers at Pittsburgh. Curious incidents, these, in the celebration of the anniversary of the great and glorious Washington.

## The Prospect of Peace.

We are apparently no nearer peace than we were a couple of months ago, though the British press so confidently expresses itself on the point. Russia, it appears, from the diplomatic circular and the despatch of Count Nesselrode of Jan. 5, still declines to consent to any modification of her frontier by the cession of territory in Bessarabia, and objects to any vague fifth point, under which other territorial concessions might be demanded of her. She consents to throw open the Danube, and neither to erect nor to maintain strong places on the Black Sea; she stipulates that some permanent protection shall be afforded to the Christians in Turkey; as to the rest, she proposes to surrender Kars in exchange for Sebastopol, and conceives that with this the Allies should be satisfied. If the language of the British press can be regarded as, in any measure, a criterion of the intentions of the government, England will demand more substantial guarantees for peace than these. France is ready, it appears, to negotiate on any terms which the Czar is willing to suggest; but unless Lord Clarendon has stated a glaring falsehood, the Emperor is of one mind with the British government.

It appears certain, however, that the masses of Europe are tired of war. In the language of the *Debate*, "both conquerors and conquered feel a moral necessity for peace." In Russia, as well as France and England, civilization has implanted the conviction that there is something better to be done with flesh, blood and muscle than to tear them in shreds with ball, steel and grape. The horrid massacre at the capture of the Malakoff gave the first impetus to the sentiment; and nothing has contributed more powerfully to extend it than the wholesale destruction of those miracles of art and science, the docks at Sebastopol. In former days, says the French newspaper before quoted, wars used to last thirty years; at present humanity recovers from the delusion at the end of two. We noticed the other day that the desire for peace was so powerful in Austria that a Viennese newspaper which ventured to doubt its advent was rigorously suppressed, apparently to the satisfaction of the people. A similar sentiment has seized such hold of the public mind at Paris, that the most violent anti-English articles have lately found their way into the papers in anticipation of difficulties being thrown by England in the way of a treaty of peace. Nor is there any doubt but the same view will obtain with the bulk of the British people. The war has always been opposed by the Manchester men; the merchants of London and the sea board cities, who some time since were resolute for the prosecution of hostilities, now speak hopefully of peace; Parliament is evidently well pleased at the prospect. Of the popular feeling in Russia it is impossible to speak with any confidence, from the want of a free press and free speech in the dominions of the Czar; but there, too, the weariness of the war must be decided, or Alexander would not have ventured, in the face of Constantine and the strong war party among the nobles, to have made concessions for the sake of arriving at a basis of negotiations.

Should the war now be brought to a close, it will figure strangely in history. Neither side can properly call itself the victor. If the Allies have taken Sebastopol, the Russians have taken Kars: one offsets the other. The excess of material damage has doubtless been inflicted on Russia; but the loss of moral prestige has been felt by the Maritime nations who, with Sardinia and the Ottomans, Porte to back them, have only just held their own against their single opponent. Neither side can be said to have been reduced to sue for peace. Lord Derby says that the opinion on the Continent of Europe is that the Western Powers have sent to St. Petersburg to beg for peace; and though it is easy to detect in this assertion the dishonesty of a partisan, there is unquestionably much truth in it. On the other hand, the Count of Nesselrode admits, in his diplomatic circular to the Russian Ministers abroad, that one of the chief motives which have pressed Russia to negotiate has been "the existence of a coalition, the tendency of which was every day to assume larger proportions." In other words, Russia negotiates in order not to be beaten by a European coalition. It will not be until the terms of peace are made known that the exact proportion of glory and disgrace can be meted out to each combatant, and then it will doubtless appear that the only conqueror has been Louis Napoleon, whose arms have been his pen, and whose troops have been diplomatic circulars. If Russia is beaten, she will have been beaten in the cabinet more than in the field.

## POETRY OF CITY LIFE—THE SNOW CLAD HILLS OF BROADWAY.

The yearly amount paid by our citizens for keeping our streets clear of rubbish is set down in our annual tax bill at between \$200,000 and \$300,000. In addition to this the Councilmen have just appropriated an additional sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of removing the accumulations of snow and ice which for some weeks past have rendered the public thoroughfares almost impassable. Now, since the storm of the 5th of January, the Street Commissioner has had no opportunity of spending anything for the execution of the ordinary work of his department. The heavy falls of snow which have interrupted the general business of the community have also rendered Mr. Ebling's office a sinecure. He has, therefore, or ought to have, in his hands, the proportion of the regular tax which was intended to cover the last six weeks, besides the extraordinary appropriation recently made.

For the last few days a number of laborers have been seen engaged in a peculiarly interesting and difficult engineering operation in Broadway, which remains very mysterious to

## labor of Danes. In order to create imaginary facilities for the passage of vehicles on either side of that thoroughfare, they have been piling up mountain ridges in the centre of the street, which require no small effort of courage on the part of foot passengers to traverse. Here and there, *longo intervallo*, may be discovered a Simphon, through whose sinuities the traveller may wind his puzzled way across; but we have heard of more than one instance in which hopeless females have been lost in these Broadway Alps. Now, if this arrangement were effective for the object contemplated, we should not pay so much attention to these individual cases of distress. But it unfortunately happens that by confining vehicles to this single file passage on either side, the slightest obstruction or accident arrests the whole circulation of the street. Although our stage drivers are proverbially daring, they are not insane enough to attempt to surmount the barriers opposed to their enterprise by the Street Commissioner. The consequence is that frequently for half an hour together, a long line of vehicles is kept stationary by the falling of a horse at its head, or by some other of the numerous street casualties, which in ordinary times would scarcely cause a moment's delay.

With the large amount of funds which Mr. Ebling has had placed at his disposal, we cannot understand the motive of this mode of proceeding. Is it economy? We can easily show him that the plan he has adopted will prove no saving at all. His snow piles will be consolidated into a standing nuisance whilst the cold weather lasts, and in the end additional sums will have to be voted for their removal, seeing that the street soil is collected with them. In the meanwhile, the city will have to suffer all the inconvenience and annoyance arising from an obstruction which renders the passage of vehicles of little or no value owing to the slowness at which they are compelled to move.

The proper and only efficient mode of relieving the thoroughfares would be to have a certain amount of the snow carted away, and the rest so equally distributed over the street as to ensure its easy liquidation by the sun. Where this has been done by private enterprises, the results have been most satisfactory. With the money which Mr. Ebling has in hand, and the abundance of unemployed labor which the severity of the season has unfortunately placed at his disposal, we cannot imagine why he has resorted to the present ineffective plan.

## FRAME BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS.

We had occasion recently to call attention to the fact that a number of frame buildings were in the process of repair and enlargement in various parts of the city, and in connection urged that the Fire Wardens should report all such cases to the Council of the Fire Department, in order that the legal penalties might be imposed on the offending parties, and the protracted existence of these dangerous edifices within the city limits be put a stop to for the future.

We find, however, upon inquiry, that in this matter, at least, the Fire Wardens are not so much to blame as the law under which they work; which, while it expressly forbids the construction of frame or wooden dwellings, permits such a modification of the premises as nullifies the spirit of the act, and allows the builder to reconstruct the house throughout, and thus perpetuates the existence, within the city limits, of a class of edifices that place life in jeopardy and reduce the value of property in their vicinity.

Daniel O'Connell said he could drive a coach and six through any act of Parliament ever passed, and if any builder failed to run two large omnibuses abreast over and through the following provisions of the act relating to the subject of improper buildings, he certainly could not be deemed smart:

Sec. 14.—If any brick front, frame or wooden dwelling house already erected within the fire limits, as the same are extended by this act, or may hereafter be extended, shall require new roofing, it shall and may be lawfully for the proprietor, or proprietors thereof to raise the same for the purpose of making a flat roof thereof; provided that such new roofing shall be of copper, slate, tin, zinc, or iron, or also provided that such dwelling house when so raised, shall not exceed thirty-five feet in height from the level of the sidewalk to the peak or highest part thereof.

Sec. 20. No wooden or frame building whatever, whether the same may have a brick front or otherwise, within the fire limits, as extended as aforesaid, or as the same may hereafter be extended, shall be raised, enlarged or built upon, or removed from one lot to another, within the fire limits of the said city, as the same are extended as aforesaid, or may hereafter be extended; provided, however, that brick front frame dwelling houses and wooden dwelling houses only may be raised, under the circumstances, and in the manner specially provided for in the fourteenth section of this act.

From this it will be seen that the building may be raised an additional story under plea of repairing the roof, and further, permission is given to repair the dwelling, which may mean anything from tightening a shingle to reconstructing the house throughout.

It is undeniable that frame houses are dangerous to person and property in case of a conflagration, and the intent of the law forbidding their erection in the city is a good one, and should be so amended as to make it effectual. As this is a matter which interests the Fire Department more particularly, as the fines collected go to swell its fund, we call upon their representative board to take this matter in hand, and draw up an act revising the fire laws and those relating to the construction of buildings in the city, and urge its adoption by the State Legislature. With such an endorsement it would pass without opposition. The reform demanded is a thorough one, and should embrace the reconstruction of the Board of Fire Wardens, who are notoriously remiss in their duties—more from a want of responsibility than from any other cause—also the appointment of a board of practical builders, who are disinterested, to report upon all edifices in the process of construction in the city, with a view to their being built in a more substantial manner than they are at present; for it is notorious that there are over six hundred houses in the city in which, should a fire occur, every inmate would perish. We have had too many disasters of this kind occur of late years to render it necessary for us to particularize such cases in proof.

Let the representatives of the Fire Department, then, draft such a law as we have proposed, and the press and public will not be backward in calling on the State Legislature to pass it forthwith.

## Obituary.

THE LATE COMMODORE ABBOTT.

Advised from Hong Kong, dated the 16th of December, announce the death of Commodore Joel Abbott, commander of our East India squadron. This officer entered the navy in June, 1812, and received his commission as captain and commander in October, 1848. Out of forty-four years that he was in the service he only passed thirteen years at sea, ten years and nine months having been spent on shore and other duty, and twenty years as a civil engineer.

From Boston.

The Secretary of the Navy has ordered the United States steam frigate Merrimack to cruise up as far as the Banks of Newfoundland, to relieve vessels that may be in distress. She will leave on Saturday.

The machine shop of Harrison Loring, on First street, South Boston, was nearly destroyed by fire last night. Loss \$25,000; insured.

## Fatal Railroad Accident.

WHEELING, W. Va., Feb. 21, 1856.

The morning train from Baltimore to this place yesterday, met with an accident about a hundred miles east of here. One of the wheels of the forward engine broke, and the engine was thrown over an embankment a distance of one hundred feet. The cars remained upon the track, and none of the passengers were injured; but the fireman, Christian Ziegler, of Frederick county, Md., was instantly killed, and the engineer, Thomas McKinley, of Baltimore, seriously injured.

## The Ohio River.

St. Louis, Feb. 21, 1856.

The work of blasting the ice in our harbor was commenced yesterday, and will be continued until the river opens.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

## BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

From Washington.

TREATY WITH THE INDIANS.—THE CHAPLAINSHIP OF THE SENATE OF THE POLITICALS.—SEN. HOUTON AND THE VICE PRESIDENCY, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1856.

The Senate in executive session to-day ratified a very important treaty between the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians and the United States, enlarging the boundaries of those tribes.

No quorum having voted yesterday postponing the election of Chaplain came up again this morning, when, after a separate struggle, Daniel Wadsworth, of New York, aged ninety-four years, belonging to the Congregationalist church, was elected Chaplain.

Messrs. Orr, Richardson, Quilman and Davidson left this evening for your city, to address the democracy at Tammany Hall to-morrow evening. A large number of members left this evening for Philadelphia, to attend the Know Nothing Convention, the House having adjourned over till Monday for that purpose.

Offers have been made, I understand, this evening, to Gen. Houston to stand as Vice President on the same ticket with Fillmore. But he declines. In reply, he says he is "too old, and that he never would go second to any man since Jackson." A good deal of interest is felt here as to the result at Philadelphia.

D.

THE CASE OF JUDGE TRUMBULL AND MR. KENNEDY.—THE KANSAS CONTENTED SEAT.—THE CHAPLAIN OF THE HOUSE, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1856.

The Senate, in Judge Trumbull's case, will have to decide the delicate question of conflict between State and federal constitutions. The same question will arise in the case of Mr. Kennedy, Senator elect from Maryland. I hear that Judge Trumbull has letters from Governor Matteson and Senator Douglas, both endorsing the validity of his election.

The Committee on Elections in the House "won't" stay whipped." They will report again their resolution asking for power to send for persons and papers, and the reason upon which they base their report, viz., to force the production of certain records and documents now suppressed.

Mr. Wadsworth, the newly elected Chaplain to the House, is a Revolutionary hero, and so old and deaf, it is said, that he can neither hear nor be heard.

Many members of Congress are absent at Philadelphia. Gen. Houston appears entirely indifferent to the action of the Convention. He will not consent to be the tail of any ticket.

The current rumor that Secretary Davis is about retiring from the Cabinet is entirely without foundation.

R.

## EXTENSIVE ROBBERY AT WILLARD'S HOTEL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1856.